

REMARKS

A. Claim Amendments

The following amendment is submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. Claims 6-16 are currently pending and stand allowed. Amendments to claims 10 and 12-14 are presented herein. New Claims 17-21 are presented for consideration. Upon consideration and entry of the foregoing, claims 6-21 will be pending.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and new claims and submit that the above amendments and new claims do not constitute new matter. Support for amended claim 10 can be found, e.g., in the specification on page 4, lines 26 to page 5, line 1. Support for new claims 17-20 can be found, e.g., in the specification on page 7, lines 6-13 and page 9, lines 7-16. Support for new claim 21 can be found, e.g., in the specification on page 4, lines 26-27, page 6, lines 24-26 and in claim 4 as originally filed.

Applicants respectfully submit the foregoing amendments require no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the United States Patent & Trademark Office ("the Office"). See M.P.E.P. § 714.16. Newly presented amendments and claims correspond to dependent claims that are narrower in scope than the currently allowed independent claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that the newly presented amendments and claims are encompassed within the scope of prior art searches conducted for the allowed independent claims. In addition, the language added to amended claim 10 mirrors the language used in currently amended claim 12; new claims 17 and 18 mirror currently amended claims 13 and 14, respectively; and new claims 19 and 20 mirror pending claims 15 and 16, respectively. New claim 21 mirrors pending claim 9. Claim 12 has been amended to depend from claim 21 which mirrors the dependency of currently amended claim 10 to pending claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments do not impose an undue burden on the Office.

Applicants also respectfully submit the foregoing amendments and new claims are submitted to properly protect Applicants' invention. See M.P.E.P. § 714.16. Applicants note that the present amendments for proper protection of Applicants' invention were deemed necessary while reviewing the Notice of Allowability of March 10, 2005, and therefore request entry of the above amendment at the present time. Applicants respectfully apologize for not making such a request earlier.

B. Reference D of FORM PTO-1449

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider reference D of Applicants' FORM PTO-1449 submitted on April 24, 2001 ("Applicants' FORM PTO-1449"). In an Office Action mailed on September 10, 2002, the Examiner indicated consideration of all of the references submitted in Applicants' FORM PTO-1449, with the exception of reference D. The Examiner stated that reference D was not considered because reference D is in Japanese and an English translation of this reference has not been supplied with the application. In Applicants' response of December 10, 2002, Applicants noted that the abstract, graphs and tables of reference D are in English. Furthermore, Applicants submitted an English translation of the relevant portion of reference D. In an Office Action mailed on April 22, 2003, the Examiner stated, "the partial translation of reference D of IDS is acknowledged." Consistent with the Examiner's statements of April 22, 2003, Applicants submit herewith a FORM PTO-1449 and respectfully request that the Examiner provide an indication of consideration of reference D by initializing the left column of the FORM PTO-1449 in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above claim amendments and newly presented claims. In view of the above remarks, early notification of a favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

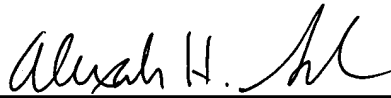
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the telephone number listed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

Hunton & Williams LLP

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